As per report of the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhopal, no industrial unit of Gujarat has been proceeded against for violation of forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Urban Afforestation Programme

5072. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch urban afforestation programme in selected cities.

(b) if so, whether security would be provided in all the sectors or restricted to some sectors; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have initiated an urban afforestation programme in selected cities taking into account an assessment of the local requirements. The approach for the programme includes awareness building, public participation and involvement of local institutions in planting and protecting the trees.

FOG Due to Air Pollution

5073. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increased amount of fog in winter is mainly due to increase in air pollution;

(b) if so, what is the pollution level detected in the air during the recent winter;

(c) whether trend shows deteriorating situation year after year; and

(d) what comprehensive plans are proposed to be taken to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Atmospheric pollutants act as a source of condensation nuclei and help in the formation of fog. However, there is no one to one correspondence between formation of fog and air pollution because the meteorological conditions required for formation of fog may not always be satisfied. Fog may be dense over unpolluted rural surroundings due to radiation cooling of the earth's surface.

(c)The occurrence of fog over North-West India during winter, particularly December and January, is a common phenomenon. No definite trend, either increasing decreasing, in the occurrence of fog has been observed during the last 10 years.

(d) Does not arise.